New Law to contain Naxalism

841. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether naxalite activities have increased in many parts of the country;

(b) whether such incidents have increased after repeal of Prevention of Terrorism Act;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for a special law to curb naxalite activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The overall quantum of naxal violence decreased by 4% in 2004 compared to 2003. However, naxalities are spreading their influence to newer areas and there is an upward trend in naxal activities in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2004 was enacted incorporating their in the provisions considered necessary to deal with various facets of terrorism. The CPML-PW and the MCCI and their front organizations continue to be banned under this Act.

Salaries drawn during suspension period in MCD

842. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1000 employees of Municipal Corporation of Delhi who are under suspension and are facing inquiries following their involvement in illegal activities and corruption, are still drawing salaries;

(b) if so, what is the precise number of such employees at present; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any decision for the stoppage of their salaries during the period of their suspension and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) 229 officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, presently under suspension due to their involvement in the cases initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation, anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Delhi Police, are being paid subsistence allowance as per rules.

(c) Does not arise.

Naxal activities in States

†843. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxal activities in various States have increased in recent times and the concerned States have apprised the Central Government of this development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to contain naxal activities in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The quantum of naxal violence was particularly high in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra during 2004 as compared to 2003.

(c) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) removal of socio cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Prisoners in Tihar Jail

844. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners, including women, above the age of 65 years, presently lodged in various jails in the country and particularly in Tihar Jail in Delhi;

(b) whether it is **a** fact that these prisoners have become very weak;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to release these aged prisoners on humanitarian grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.